Ms Lucy Turnbull AO, Chief Commissioner of the Greater Sydney Commission launched Reimagining the Liverpool Health, Education, Research and Innovation Precinct, a report which sets the blueprint for the future health needs for the people of the south west.

More than 100 people attended the launch to hear about how Liverpool will become an engine for innovation, health and jobs.

“Creating a new health, education and research precinct will drive innovation, create jobs and unlock the full potential of the area over the coming decades,” said SWSLHD Chief Executive Amanda Larkin.

Liverpool Hospital is one of the biggest and busiest hospitals in the state, which is already a hub for integrating education, research and technology. The Precinct will build an all-inclusive city for the future and create an international hub for innovation.

“Liverpool Hospital is a world-class health institution which already attracts international health professionals, investment, and drives research and innovation in the area,” said Ms Larkin.

“The vision is a collaboration of key partners coming together and recognising the incredible work that already happens in our area. All we need is the right vision and the right strategy - that’s what this report provides.”

Co-chaired by SWSLHD, Liverpool City Council and the Sydney Business Chamber, the committee responsible for the report includes Liverpool City Council, Health Infrastructure, SWS Primary Health Network, Ingham Institute for Applied Medical Research, Liverpool Hospital, South West Sydney TAFE, University of Wollongong, Western Sydney University and University of New South Wales.

Macarthur Clinical School provides access to top-quality education with almost 70 per cent of graduates staying to complete their internships in western Sydney hospitals.

“With such high growth in the area, along with this commitment from our top educators, Campbelltown Hospital is in good stead to become a centre for cutting-edge health care delivered by some of the very best doctors not only here in the State, but on a global level," said SWSLHD Chief Executive Amanda Larkin.
Message from the Chair

Prof Phil Harris, Board Chairman

I would like to thank staff across all hospitals and services, as this winter our state has experienced a particularly busy flu season. Whilst we plan for an increase of presentations during the winter months, staff across all hospitals and services have done an exceptional job supporting patients and each other to get through the winter period.

A number of significant announcements took place in August.

I was pleased to see the Health Minister open the new state-of-the-art Macarthur Clinical School at Campbelltown Hospital. Along with the recent State budget announcement of $632 million for the Campbelltown Hospital Stage 2 redevelopment, the area is taking big strides towards becoming a health and education hub for the local community.

Mental Health Minister Tanya Davies also visited the District, launching the Gold Card Clinics at Liverpool Hospital. To see this level of commitment from both Ministers to be part of the District’s achievements and celebrations is fantastic.

Transforming Your Experience is forging ahead, with commitment charters going up across all services and hospitals, implementation committees being formed and executive rounding being embedded across the District. Most notably, Campbelltown Hospital Emergency Department staff received feedback from a parent who described how they received personalised care and felt they were truly listened to. It is a wonderful example of Transforming Your Experience in action.

DonateLife Week

Donors, recipients, family and community members all came together for the state wide launch of DonateLife Week held at Liverpool Hospital. Andrew Vien-Debetaz and Fulvia Nisyrios were some of the inspirational speakers who shared moving stories of how their lives had been touched by organ and tissue donation.

SWSLHD Chief Executive Amanda Larkin said the District was proud to host the NSW launch of DonateLife Week as south western Sydney was one of the most culturally diverse regions in the state.

“With 40 per cent of the Arabic speaking community living in the area, we developed an in language DVD featuring people from the Arabic community to educate people on the importance of organ donation.”

A new online registration process was also unveiled allowing NSW residents to register their donation decision in minutes. Visit www.donatelife.gov.au.

Up, up and away

Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital is leading the country in the highly specialised Double Balloon Enteroscopy (DBE) surgery. The Hospital is now considered a centre of excellence in DBE through the work of Dr Alrubaie and Dr Chris Meredith. Dr Alrubaie said the Unit performs more DBE procedures than any other centre in Australia.

“DBE is a highly specialised procedure to explore the small bowel and to diagnose and treat any of its pathologies. Even patients who require surgical treatment can benefit from the procedure, which can make their surgery easier and safer,” he said.

DBE was pioneered at Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital in 2005. Before its introduction, traditional imaging methods like CT or MRI scans or surgery were the only way to investigate or treat any small bowel issues.

Bankstown is one of only two centres in NSW which specialises in this procedure and receives referrals from Canberra, Newcastle, Wollongong, Orange, Bathurst and many metropolitan hospitals.
Staff donate $40,000

A $40,000 donation was handed over to the Barbara May Foundation through the District’s Workplace Giving Program during a special event at Campbelltown Hospital. Founder of the Barbara May Foundation, Valerie Browning AM thanked staff for their generosity and explained how the money would be used to assist the great work being done to improve maternal healthcare in the Horn of Africa.

The Workplace Giving Program has helped the Foundation to build a 20-bed maternal hospital in Ethiopia and train birth attendants in villages to manage women’s pregnancies.

The Program also provides $17,000 in donations each month to support the maternal hospital’s ongoing costs.

Through the Workplace Giving Program, almost a quarter of staff make a regular donation of $1 a week to fund sustainable projects to improve health outcomes around the world.

Congratulations and thank you to all staff involved.

Revolutionary idose

In a NSW first, a revolutionary idose system has been installed at all Drug Health Clinics throughout the District, with machines at Bankstown, Campbelltown and Liverpool.

Idose is an automated dosing system that identifies clients by taking a digital photo of their iris when they present for dosing each day. The scanner will identify the client and then an accurate dose will be dispensed by the computer (for methadone) or by a nurse (for suboxone).

District Drug Health Services General Manager Tonina Harvey said the technology provided quicker and more accurate medication dispensing.

“The automated system is faster and more reliable than the traditional method of checking clients’ ID and pouring out the dose manually,” she said.

Ms Harvey also said the system was safe and confidential. “Each person’s iris is unique to them, so there is no risk of misidentification.”

Community Corner

Our hospitals celebrated 25 years of World Breastfeeding Week, spreading the word that breastfed babies have a reduced risk of SIDS, asthma and allergies. Liverpool Hospital celebrated with a display in the foyer, while Bowral & District Hospital held a celebratory morning tea.

Four Liverpool Hospital senior medical staff represented Australia as part of the Australian Master Docceroos team who competed at the 23rd World Medical Football Championships held in Austria. Bruce Ager and Minh Tranh (anaesthetics), Stephen Ong (Ophthalmology) and Craig Juergens, Head of Cardiology competed against 12 other nations and although they did not win the competition they achieved their best result so far two wins, two draws and two losses.
An alliance changing lives

The Wollondilly Health Alliance is a collaboration between the District, Wollondilly Shire Council and South Western Sydney PHN to bring healthcare into the homes of hard to reach families and improve the health of people living in the Wollondilly region through telehealth technology.

District Primary and Community Health GM Justin Duggan said the Alliance was a prime example of how good medical practice and cutting edge technology could meet the needs of the community.

“Connecting rural families with health practitioners via telemonitoring enables families to stay in the comfort of their home while maintaining personalised contact with a health practitioner,” he said.

Wollondilly Shire Council General Manager Luke Johnson (Chair of the Alliance) said Wollondilly Health Alliance was improving a broad range of health and wellbeing outcomes through collaboration.

For more information visit wollondillyhealth.org.au.

The District, together with the University of Wollongong, launched the largest scale program for the treatment of personality disorders in south western Sydney.

As part of the Project Air Strategy for Personality Disorders, the Gold Card Clinics provide comprehensive, integrated services that range from early intervention through to longer term treatments.

District Mental Health Director Dr Claire Jones said when people present to the ED in psychological distress they receive a gold card which they take to the mental health team where their intervention begins.

“The Gold Card Clinics take a stepped approach to mental health. We are excited to turn this innovation into ‘business as usual’, to help support the south west community,” said Dr Jones.

More than 400 of the District’s mental health and drug health staff have been specifically trained in the treatment of personality disorders. The four Gold Card Clinics are located at Bowral, Campbeltown, Bankstown and Liverpool/Fairfield Community Health Services.

District wide email changes

Starting this month, our District email addresses will change to: firstname.lastname@health.nsw.gov.au.

The Email Migration Project is being run by eHealth in collaboration with our Information Communication and Technology team and both are working hard to ensure the change is as smooth as possible.

Keep an eye out for further updates about these important changes from our Email Migration team and if you have any questions, please contact the Project Team at EHNSW-SSWSMailMigration@health.nsw.gov.au or call 8644 2465. Alternatively contact the Service Desk on 8738 5888.

Nurse & midwife support

Nurses and midwives are encouraged to access NM Support, which is a 24/7 confidential telephone health support service. Whether you have experienced a challenging shift, are feeling anxious or depressed or struggling with issues in your personal life, the counsellors are here to chat. NM Support is also available to nursing and midwifery managers, students and family members.

Call 1800 667 877 or visit the website.

eMR2 at Liverpool

eMR2 will go live at Liverpool Hospital in November, followed by all other facilities across the District. eMR2 is a government-funded health initiative and is the next phase in converting current hybrid paper clinical notes to an electronic platform in general inpatient areas.


Phone number changes

All Liverpool Eastern Campus phone numbers between 9828 5700 and 9828 6999 have been disconnected as of 31 August. All callers dialling these numbers will be notified that the number has been disconnected.

Please ensure all advertising materials including websites, business cards and email signatures have updated phone numbers beginning with the prefix 8738.